

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SDS PROGRAM

Question 1: Is our accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of Education?

Answer: Please check the Secretary of Education website at:

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>

Question 2: Can a medical school (or nursing program) apply for funding using only the disadvantaged status information for students in their specific program or does the entire student body have to meet the criteria?

Answer: Use disadvantaged information per each health professions degree program, not for the entire student body.

Question 3: Must we be accredited at the school level?

Answer: The school and the program must be accredited.

Question 4: 15% of graduates must be practicing in primary care, the “Application Review Criteria” states that “30% or more” of graduates must be entering into primary care. Is this correct?

Answer: The Reviewer would count the 30% as a strength which would mean additional points.

Question 5: The budget instructions call for a one-year budget, but also require that we submit with the application one-year budgets for each of the 3 subsequent years of the funding period. Do these instructions apply to the work plan?

Answer: The work plan is for the entire project period.

Question 6: Can SDS grant funds be used to support retention initiatives and/or personnel time or should the funds be used exclusively for student scholarships?

Answer: Funds can only be used exclusively for student scholarships

Question 7: If we applied, for funding for multiple nursing programs can these programs be combined in one application since they are all nursing programs.

Answer: NO, each program has to apply separately.

Question 8: Are two year schools of nursing eligible to apply under the SDS Grant Opportunity?

Answer: YES, if the school meets all the eligibility requirements in the FOA.

Question 9: On page 1 of the FOA, it states that the maximum SDS funds that can be awarded per student is \$30,000. However, on page 13 of the 2015 Student Financial Aid guidelines it states "No student can be awarded over \$15,000 in SDS Funds per year." What is the limit per student?

Answer: The limit for the FY 2016 application is \$30,000. The \$15,000 limit information is from the Guidelines for the 2012-2015 funding period. We will be posting new guidelines for the 2016-2019 funding period.

Question 10: Does the methodology/approach section of the narrative require applicants to propose new collaborations for recruitment and retention.

Answer: The FOA does not require new collaborations but requires applicants to show that they are engaged in recruitment and retention activities and that SDS students are included in those activities. In addition, SDS funds cannot be spent on these activities.

Question 11: Does the "at least 20% of total enrollment (full-timed enrolled) "of the program during the Academic Year refer to program enrollment or college enrollment?

Answer: It is referring to the specific health professions degree program enrollment.

